When studying in New York, Haring discovered semiotics. This is the study of the use of signs and symbols. This inspired him to work with language, such as in the video performance ‘Lick Boy Fat Art’. Haring also brought fake news to the street by ironically rearranging words taken from newspaper headlines. These experiments with language were the starting point for the “visual language” for which he became famous. Egyptian hieroglyphics and graffiti inspired Haring to develop his own language of pictograms that he constantly repeated and in different combinations.

“I am intrigued with the shapes people choose as their symbols to create a language. There is within all forms a basic structure, an indication of the entire object with a minimum of lines that becomes a symbol. This is common to all languages, all people, all times.”

Keith Haring artwork, Reagan’s Death Cops Hunt Pope, 1980 © Keith Haring Foundation

DO IT YOURSELF!
Take a newspaper and scissors. Cut out some newspaper headlines into individual words. Mix them up and put them back together to form a new headline.

Who has come up with the craziest fake news?

Do it yourself!
Make a word game with the letters from these words. How many word combinations can you come up with?

Get some inspiration from Haring’s performance.

Keith Haring at work?
Press play and watch the video.

Bozarathome is curious about your creation!

What do you think the lightbulb pictured above represents?

Want to read more about Keith Haring’s visual language?

#Bozarathome is curious about your creation!